

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SS-15 EB-08 L-03
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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4307
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
USDEL SECRETARY
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 00962

USDEL FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON

ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, XF, BE, US, IS, FR, EEC
SUBJECT: ABORTED EC-9 DECLARATION ON MIDEAST AND REPLY
TO SADAT; PLANNED BELGIAN DEMARCHE

REF: (A) STATE 11834 (NOTAL), (B) COPENHAGEN 228 (NOTAL)

1. BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER HENRI SIMONET'S CHEF DE
CABINET (ALFRED CAHEN) INFORMED US JANUARY 17 THAT EC
NINE HAVE FAILED TO REACH AGREEMENT ON REPLY TO SADAT
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LETTER (REF B), AS WELL AS ON PROPOSED EC NINE DECLARATION
ON MIDEAST, AND THAT BELGIUM NOW PLANS TO MAKE UNILATERAL
DEMARCHE BY GIVING LETTER TO ISRAELI AMBASSADOR
JANUARY 18 FOR TRANSMISSION TO DAYAN.

2. RECOUNTING BACKGROUND OF PROPOSED EC DECLARATION AND
REPLY TO SADAT LETTER, CAHEN SAID THAT SADAT LETTER TO

EC NINE REACHED PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS AFTER BELGIANS NO LONGER OCCUPIED EC PRESIDENCY. TINDEMANS REPLIED INFORMING SADAT THAT LETTER HAD BEEN PASSED TO DANES FOR ACTION AND SAYING THAT BELGIANS WOULD PROMOTE FAVORABLE RESPONSE. CAHEN SAID THAT DESPITE SUBSEQUENT EFFORTS BY BELGIANS AND OTHERS TO COME UP WITH JOINT EC STATEMENT IMPLYING THAT ISRAEL SHOULD MAKE EFFORT TO SEIZE OPPORTUNITY OFFERED BY SADAT INITIATIVE, IT HAS BEEN IMPOSSIBLE FOR NINE TO AGREE ON A COMMON POSITION. NINE HAVE BEEN UNABLE AGREE ON CONTENT OF REPLY, OR WHETHER, HOW OR WHERE IT SHOULD BE MADE.

3. CAHEN SAID THAT FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET, FEELING THAT A BELGIAN DEMARCHE WOULD NOT BE OUT OF ORDER, IS NOW PLANNING TO SEND A LETTER TO FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN. LETTER WILL BE COUCHED IN BROAD AND GENERAL TERMS, NOTING THE LONG-STANDING FRIENDLY AND CLOSE TIES BETWEEN BELGIUM AND ISRAEL, STRESSING THE NEED TO PROVIDE IN SOME WAY FOR SELF-DETERMINATION BY PALESTINIANS, AND CALLING ON ISRAELIS TO SEIZE OPPORTUNITY OF TAKING ADVANTAGE OF SADAT'S HISTORIC INITIATIVE.

4. CAHEN SAID THAT LETTER, WHICH HE STRESSED WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL IN NATURE AND NOT FOR PRESS, WILL BE GIVEN TO ISRAELI AMBASSADOR FOR ONWARD TRANSMISSION TOMORROW, JANUARY 18. ISRAELI AMBASSADOR WAS INFORMED OF CONFIDENTIAL

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FORTHCOMING DEMARCHE WHEN HE CALLED AT FOREIGN MINISTRY YESTERDAY TO PROVIDE BRIEFING ON RECENT DAYAN VISIT TO ROME. CAHEN SAID THAT HE WILL INFORM US OF ISRAELI REACTION.

5. IN DISCUSSING PROPOSED EC NINE STATEMENT, CAHEN SAID THAT HE WAS UNAWARE OF REPORTED ALLEGATIONS THAT USG WAS BEHIND PROPOSED EC INITIATIVE (REF A). HE REMARKED, IN PASSING, THAT DANES AS WELL AS FRENCH AND DUTCH HAD OPPOSED A JOINT EC DECLARATION.

6. WE REPEATED STATEMENT (REF A) THAT USG REGARDED THE PROPOSED EC STATEMENT AS EC BUSINESS, AND SAID THAT WE ASSUMED THAT SAME ATTITUDE WOULD APPLY TO PLANNED BELGIAN DEMARCHE. CHAMBERS

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